



News Release

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Doctor suspended: charged with groping patients under anesthesia

Benton County anesthesiologist accused of taking advantage of vulnerable patients

OLYMPIA — A Richland physician accused of fondling patients while they were under anesthesia has been ordered to stop practicing immediately. The license of Lloyd V. Olson (MD00034954) has been suspended by the Medical Quality Assurance Commission and the Department of Health.

Olson cannot practice medicine in Washington until the charges are resolved. He has 20 days to respond to the allegations and request a hearing. He is also known as Lloyd Edwin Olson.

The charges say Olson fondled the breasts of two female patients prior to surgical procedures in April 2010 while the patients were under general anesthesia. Olson said his own curiosity led him to fondle the patients, and that he had done the same thing many times before. He is considered an immediate threat to any patient he treats. Law enforcement is also investigating.

Legal documents in this case are available by calling 360-236-4700 or online by clicking the link to "Provider Credential Search" on the [agency home page](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov). Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are encouraged to call that number to report their complaint.

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission protects public health and safety by assuring the competency and quality of physicians and physician assistants. The commission establishes and monitors qualifications for licensure, and consistently enforces practice standards, and professional conduct through discipline and continuing education.

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Visit the Washington Department of Health Web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.